



Bobbie Beth's Tidbits...

LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION! 10 Wonderful Years of DeaFestival

It's time for DeaFestival – Kentucky 2006! I am thrilled to announce that this year marks the 10th anniversary of DeaFestival – Kentucky. In the ten years since DeaFestival's conception in Kentucky it has shown remarkable growth from 1,500 who attended in 1996 to over 10,000 attendees in 2004. DeaFestival was designed to be a true celebration of the language, culture, diversity and arts of the deaf and hard of hearing community. This year we have partnered with many community organizations to bring recognition to our culture and talents, and access to vital information that benefits the community as a whole.

The Children's Program, held in the huge tent on the Belvedere behind the Kentucky Center, begins at 10:00 am and will once again take you into another land, one of imagination and wonder, as we explore the adventures of "Narnia, the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe". Mindy Moore and Theron Parker, along with Jeremy Quiroga, Pinky Aiello and Tamara Ellis bring Narnia to life as audience members solve the mysteries of Narnia, find the secrets of the land, and become "Knights of Narnia", fighting for Justice and Diversity. Don't miss the Official Opening Ceremonies on this stage at Noon.

Maybe you need to take a break or rest your tired feet....then come to the "Deaf Club" tent, located on the Belvedere near the Exhibitor and food vendor booths. Sit awhile and chat with old friends, or meet new ones while you enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, have something to eat or drink and pick up information while you wait for the next production to start.

SpotLights, the Main Stage, held in the Bomhart Theater of the Kentucky Center, starts at 12:45 pm and is sure to get you off your seats and onto your feet with Hip Hop, dance filled, performances by Fred Beam of the Wild Zappers and the National Deaf Dance Theater. If comedy is more your style, then hold on to your sides as Sherry Hicks, the Anderson Twins and Alan Abarbanell keep us rolling in the aisles with laughter or James "Casey" Gillies scares us with deaf ghost stories. And don't miss the "Real Story" as Pinky Aiello shows us what its like to be both an interpreter and a consumer with vignettes from her current DVD. You'll never make a videophone call the same way after seeing this hilarious performance!

Hamilton Relay is our proud sponsor of the "I Wanna Be ... Dare to Dream.." SpotLights segment which showcases deaf and hard of hearing professionals who have broken barriers in society to become airline pilots, professors, artists, doctors, lawyers, CEO's and almost any other kind of professional you might think of. Words cannot describe the feeling I have when I hear a deaf or hard of hearing child say,

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Bobbie Beth's Tidbits

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"You mean I can do that?!!" after witnessing a phenomenal performance by a deaf or hard of hearing artist. With more and more of our deaf and hard of hearing children being raised in mainstream settings without crucial role models, I believe it is imperative that we reach out to them and let them know that YES, they truly can do anything but hear!

Visual Artists from all over the USA will set up in the Lobby of the Kentucky Center to sell their unique artwork. Be sure to stop by and browse, or layaway a gift for someone special, or perhaps for yourself. After all, you can never have too much "Art" in your life.

Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom is partnering with DeaFestival this year to bring "Deaf Awareness Day at Six Flags" on July 2nd. Discount tickets to the Six Flags theme park can be purchased at the Information booth at DeaFestival on July 1st. Let's make it a weekend of celebration together! See you at Kentucky Kingdom!

Last but not least.....Don't forget to stop in the Sponsors area and thank each of them for their continued support. Without sponsors like Knowledge Center on Deafness, Hamilton Relay, T Mobile and BellSouth, DeaFestival – Kentucky could not remain the FREE event it has been for the last 10 years. Lets work to have another, even more productive, ten years of DeaFestival!!!

SEE YOU ON JULY 1st in Louisville!!

Did you notice the
changes in our
Newsletter??

Let us know what
you think!!

KCDHH
632 Versailles Rd.
Frankfort, KY
40601

(502) 573-2604 (V/T)
(800) 372-2907 (V/T)
(502) 573-3594 (Fax)

kcdhh@kcdhh.ky.gov
www.kcdhh.ky.gov

Have you received emails from KCDHH recently and wondered what they were?

KCDHH has initiated a new Email Blitz campaign in an effort to share information that we feel will have an impact on the deaf and hard of hearing community and those who have ties to it.

We will periodically send email to the individuals on our mailing list to share new information that we feel is valuable. If you would like to be added or removed from our Email Blitz mailing list, please let us know.



Emergency Preparedness

Find out what is being done to ensure communication access before, during and after disasters or emergencies for deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians!

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) wants to begin a dialog with deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians on issues relating to ensuring that communication about disasters and emergencies are accessible to them. This includes prior to, during and after a disaster or emergency has occurred. KCDHH has established a study group to address this issue. This study group is made up of representatives from the KCDHH board and staff, the Kentucky Broadcasters Association (Bill Meck, Chief Meteorologist from WLEX-TV), the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (Barbara Fox), the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (David Bragg), Kentucky Emergency Management (Charlie Winter). A larger study group will be exploring this issue starting in July. One of the things the study group wants to know is during a disaster or emergency, where would you turn for information? Would you go to your television, radio (if you have enough residual hearing or have a weather radio adapted with a visual display), wireless pager, friends/family, or something else? Of course, it may depend upon if there was still electricity.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, and wouldn't mind taking an on-line survey to tell us your answers to these questions, go to www.kcdhh.ky.gov to complete the survey.

We are pleased to inform you that a new section has been added to the KCDHH webpage under Information and Referral, entitled, "Emergency Preparedness." Fact sheets and newsletters on preparing for a wide variety of emergencies are available there.

<http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/ois/emergency.html>

These fact sheets were developed by the Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN). Additional information about emergency preparedness will be added in the coming months.

Another valuable resource for information is the Accessible Emergency Notification and Communication: State of the Science Conference website. This conference was sponsored by Gallaudet and has the presentations of a wide variety of experts on the subject.

<http://tap.gallaudet.edu/emergencycommconf.htm>

In Kentucky, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) received a grant to develop a network system for emergencies that was specifically designed to reach marginal populations. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are included in this category because of communication barriers. CHFS has developed a database of agencies, companies, organizations, etc. who helps spread the word to these groups during an emergency, and they have names of deaf and hard of hearing individuals who want to be included in this network. It is called the Community Outreach Information Network (COIN). As part of the grant, the CHFS also developed a pocket guide, "Kentucky Community Information Pocket Guide" that has hotline phone numbers, disaster information web sites, sign language interpretation services, TDD information, information on Bioterrorism and information on how you can prevent, prepare and cope with a disaster or emergency, or volunteer after a disaster strikes. If you would like a pocket guide or would like to be included in the COIN database, please contact Barbara Fox at barbaraj.fox@ky.gov or at 275 East Main Street, 4C-A, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40621. Her phone number is 502-564-6786, ext. 4411 (Voice).

Please remember to keep checking the KCDHH website for more information about preparing for disasters and emergencies. Remember, Boy Scouts are not the only ones that should "Be Prepared."





Spotlights

12 Noon - 6:00 PM

Pinky Aiello Master of Ceremony

Pinky Aiello and her new production of *"Pinky Tells The Real Story: Videophone & Video Relay Service."* In this series of dramatized vignettes, she explores the world of video relay interpreting from both the Deaf individual's and the interpreter's perspective, with her own special brand of humor.

Recently, Pinky was awarded the "Best Art



Direction" for her work from Toronto, Canada INTERNATIONAL Deaf Film Festival!

Pinky is one of the first professional Deaf woman jugglers, and with her talent as a performer and juggler and she's quite well-known throughout the U.S.A.

www.PinkytheJuggler.com/Videophone

Sherry Hicks is an extraordinary woman artist who has developed into an exceptional solo and collaborative performance artist. Her work focuses on improvisation in ASL storytelling and she has been interpreting professionally for over 25 years. Sherry blends the elements of theater, music, movement and native ability with sign language with her uncanny ability to enchant her audiences of all ages and backgrounds. ASL is her first language and all the members of her family are Deaf, she is the only hearing member (Oh Coda) (Only Hearing Child of Deaf adults) of her family.



www.sherryhicks.com



Alan Abarbanell, or better known as Abababa, is the fourth son born to deaf parents. He shares his experiences about beginning to notice not-so-subtle differences between his friend's lives and his life. These differences became the basis for what is now his national comedy tour. Abababa credits the intersection between the Deaf and Hearing worlds with inspiring his raucous humor and somewhat altered perspective on life. "Standing between the various worlds of my youth, I have come to this conclusion; given enough resources, technology and latitude there is no limit to the depths of human stupidity and what it can achieve."

www.abababatour.com

Fred M. Beam is currently the director of **The Wild Zappers** and **The National Deaf Dance Theatre**. These two groups are guaranteed to have you feeling the beat and dancing in the isles. Fred Beam's work and groups are nationally and internationally known. The two dance groups are currently on tour around the world and plan to make a stop at DeaFestival on their way to Paris, France! Along with Fred Beam you will be tapping to the beat with Warren "WAWA" Snipe, Irvine Stewart, Ronnie Bradley, Marc Bowman, Vyrion Kinson and Tara Downing.

clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/WORLDDAROUNDYOU/sep-oct2001/wild-zappers.html



Levi and Clay Anderson, The Anderson Twins, grew up in the small New Mexico town of Milan. They were the only twins in the town, and Levi was the only Deaf child. They tried as hard as they could to be saints, but unfortunately trouble seemed to find them. And being in such a small town, their father would always be the first to know! Clay and Levi have put together a show that will have you laughing in the isles. Their performance showcases real life events, made up events (but they could have happened), and stuff that is so unrealistic it has to be a story...a good, funny, story!





I Wanna Be...Dare to Dream

Sponsored by Hamilton Relay



This year DeaFestival- Kentucky will celebrate and honor those prominent deaf and hard of hearing individuals who have dared to dream and soared to heights that many think are unattainable. We will showcase each persons talents and career as a **Pilot, CEO, Doctor, Lawyer, Stockbroker, Firefighter, Athlete, and Entertainer.**

With more and more of our deaf and hard of hearing children being raised in mainstream settings without crucial deaf and hard of hearing role models, it is imperative that we reach out to them and their families to let them know that YES, they can do anything but hear. Come meet these individuals in person and DARE to DREAM!



"I Wanna Be...Dare to Dream"
a segment of the SpotLights Program.



Hands Across the World - Children Program

Narnia a Land of Diversity and Justice

Mindy Moore
Theron Parker
Tammy Ellis
Jeremy Quiroga
Mark Wood

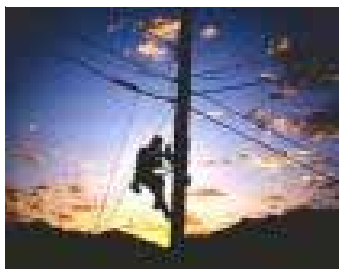
The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

Fun for ALL Talking Animals

10:00 AM 3:00 PM

Visit www.deafestival.org
for more information and full schedules

SPOTLIGHT ON...



KY Public Service Commission (KPSC)

P.O. Box 615, 211 Sower Boulevard

Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Phone (502) 564-3940 or (800) 772-4636

Fax (502) 546-3460

The Public Service Commission (PSC) consists of three members appointed by the Governor, one acts as commissioner (W. Gregory Coker) one as Chairman (Mark David Goss) and the third as Vice Chairman (Teresa J. Hill). The Commission appoints an Executive Director (Beth O'Donnell) who is responsible for the daily operations of the PSC.

The mission of the PSC is to ensure that every utility receives fair and reasonable rates for services provided and that services are adequate, efficient and reasonable for the consumer. The PSC has exclusive jurisdiction over the regulation of telephone rates and services (as well as other utilities) and also monitors consumer complaints and companies compliance to service and safety regulations.

Greg Coker, Commissioner, also serves on the Federal Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Board, and provided the following information regarding TRS.

The TRS is a telephone service, available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories, that allows persons with hearing or speech disabilities to place and receive telephone calls. TRS providers – generally telephone companies – are compensated for the costs of providing TRS from either a state or a federal fund. There is no cost to the TRS user for the functions performed by the relay center.

The Interstate TRS Fund is a federal program that ensures that the costs of providing telecommunications relay services are shared equitably among telecom carriers. The National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), which is the interstate fund administrator, collects funds from providers and then recommends to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) what the per-minute compensation for the providers of relay services should be. Funds are collected from the telecom industry and are used to compensate the states relay service provider based on the number of conversation minutes provided each month. *Kentucky's Relay service provider is Hamilton Telecommunications, Inc.*

When the Interstate TRS fund was established in 1993, the FCC directed the fund administrator (the NECA) to form an advisory council comprised of non-paid volunteers from the hearing and speech disabled community, TRS users (voice and text telephone), state regulators and relay administrators, interstate service providers, and TRS providers. The Advisory Council was created to provide guidance to the fund administrator on cost recovery matters. In the past, the council has also provided guidance on alternative methods for compensating providers where measurement of call jurisdiction is not feasible, (e.g., inbound two-line voice carry-over service).

When the proposed compensation levels were reviewed with the Advisory Council in April 2005, they expressed concern that the level of the Video Relay Service (VRS) compensation being proposed was too low and that the FCC should look at alternative compensation formulas. The Council also provided input on the compensation for calls placed via traditional TRS and Internet

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Protocol (IP) Relay services. FCC rules required that the compensation for these two services be identical; however, the Council felt after reviewing the cost data that separate compensation levels were warranted. This constant adjusting of compensation is an ongoing topic for review and as traditional relay services transform into more internet based modes of communication, compensation rates for providers will be adjusted accordingly at the Federal level.

The Public Service Commission provides, upon request, reasonable accommodations and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternative format, contact us at 502-564-3940 or persons with hearing and speech disabilities can contact the agency by using the Kentucky Relay Service, or a toll-free telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD).

For voice to TDD, call 1/800-648-6057.

For TDD to voice, call 1/800-648-6056.

You can also e-mail the PSC at:

psc.consumer.inquiries@mail.state.ky.us

Consumer Service personnel stand-by to assist you with any questions or concerns you might have regarding your utility services in Kentucky.



Beware of Hidden Texting Fees With Popular TV Show Contests

If you are thinking of texting in your vote for who should get fired from "The Apprentice" this week, what you might not realize is that your vote could be costing you money. The show's "Get Rich With Trump" game

invites viewers to text in their votes for who should be fired each week and gives them the chance to win a \$10,000 prize. As is so often the case, there's a catch. Each text message incurs a 99¢ charge, in addition to any charges that your wireless provider might have for text messaging. The popular new show "Deal or No Deal" has a similar contest with an identical \$10,000 prize and 99¢ entry fee.

Don't be fooled into texting your vote in to these contests. State and federal law requires that these shows allow contest entrants to play free of charge. To enter "The Apprentice" contest for free, visit their contest

website during the show's Monday evening broadcast at:

<http://www.nbc.com/>

[The_Apprentice_5/playwin/register.shtml](http://www.nbc.com/The_Apprentice_5/playwin/register.shtml)

The "Deal or No Deal" contest is open during that show's airtime (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) by visiting the contest website at:

<http://www.nbc.com/>

[Deal_or_No_Deal/playwin/dondregister.shtml](http://www.nbc.com/Deal_or_No_Deal/playwin/dondregister.shtml)

While both shows do disclose the 99¢ fee at least once during their broadcasts, it is easy to miss and the fee is not typically disclosed during every contest promo.

Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
#149

An agency of the Kentucky Education Cabinet



July 1st and 2nd 2006

Make it a WEEKEND vacation...
It's our 10th year of DeaFestival!

DeaFestival – Kentucky 2006© will take place on Saturday July 1st at the Kentucky Center and Belvedere in Louisville, Kentucky, from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm.

Go to www.deafestival.org for more details.

On Sunday, July 2nd, Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom is partnering with DeaFestival to present our first "Deaf Awareness Day," a fully accessible day at a theme park. Interpreters will be available all day. Tickets for Six Flags KY Kingdom are discounted to \$20.00 for each person (Regular price \$39.95). You can pick up a coupon to purchase tickets at this discounted price at the DeaFestival Information Booth inside the KY Center on July 1st ONLY. Join us for a fun-filled, family weekend and come to both DeaFestival and Deaf Awareness Day on July 1st and July 2nd.

Don't leave DeaFestival without your Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom coupon for discount tickets in your hand!
